

Wednesday, May 5

Status

- To date, there have been no impacts from the oil spill to national wildlife refuges.
- Winds are currently coming out of the Northeast/East and are expected to shift to the Southeast/South later in the week. This will likely keep the oil farther away from the shore.
- Several national wildlife refuges (Delta, Breton, Bayou Sauvage, Grand Bay, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Bon Secour) remain in the area that potentially could be impacted.

The Response

- More than 130 Service personnel are involved in the oil spill response.
- Current efforts are ongoing in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the west coast of Florida.
- At Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Service personnel continue to mound sand to build a temporary berm to close Little Lagoon protecting it from Gulf water intrusion.
- The aggressive deployment of protection booms around ecologically sensitive areas continues across the potentially affected areas. More than 343,000 feet of hard boom and 4,420 feet of soft boom have been deployed along the coast within the Mobile sector.
- Ground and air surveys of wildlife (e.g., species of concern, bird colonies, etc.) and habitat continue. Low level aerial surveys of beaches and islands within 15 miles of the coastline from Mobile Bay to Gulfport were conducted. Numerous nesting and loafing areas on beaches for seabirds including brown pelicans and shorebirds such as gulls were observed. Snowy egrets, great blue herons, oyster catchers and other species were seen in marshes along the barrier island. No evidence of oil including sheen was observed on the open water or along the beaches and no oiled wildlife was found.
- A strand of emulsified oil was found inside the Chandeleur Island Chain and no shoreline oiling has been detected. Skimmers have been dispatched to the site.
- A third wildlife staging area will be located southeast of New Orleans in Hopedale, Louisiana. Any oiled wildlife discovered will be brought to one of three staging areas for evaluation and transport to the rehabilitation center in Venice.